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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re application of: Patton et al.

Atty Dkt No.: NOVLP016C1/NVLS-000403C1

Application No.: UNASSIGNED

Examiner: UNASSIGNED

Filed: HEREWITH

Group: UNASSIGNED

Title: SEQUENTIAL STATION TOOL FOR WET  
PROCESSING OF SEMICONDUCTOR  
WAFERS

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
37 CFR §§1.56 AND 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449 may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit the list of these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these references of official record in this application. The above-identified application is a continuation of prior application U.S. Patent Application No. 09/828,371. This prior application is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Because the listed references were either cited by the PTO, or submitted to the PTO in the prior application, under 37 CFR § 1.98(d) Applicants submit that copies need not be provided.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is: (i) filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-referenced application, (ii) believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or (iii) believed to be filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. NOVLP016C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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<b>Form 1449 (Modified)</b>  <b>Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant</b>  (Use Several Sheets if Necessary)	Atty Docket No. NOVLP016C1/ NVLS- 000403C1 Applicant: Patton, et al. Filing Date HEREWITH	Application No.: UNASSIGNED  Group UNASSIGNED

### U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date
	A1	6,261,433 B1	07/01	Landau			
	A2	6,267,853	7/01	Dordi et al.			
	A3	6,344,129	2/02	Rodbell et al.			
	A4	6,024,856	2/00	Haydu et al.			
	A5	6,224,737	5/01	Tsai et al.			
	A6	6,328,872	11/01	Talieh et al.			
	A7	6,303,551	10/01	Li et al.			
	A8	5,900,105	5/99	Toshima			
	A9	6,290,865	9/01	Lloyd et al.			
	A10	6,174,817	1/01	Doshi et al.			
	A11	6,478,937	11/02	Olgado et al.			

### Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

Examiner Initial	No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
							Yes	No
	B1	WO/32835	08.06.00	PCT			X	
	B2	WO 99/41434	19.08.99	PCT			X	

### Other Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication
	C1	
Examiner		Date Considered

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.